

THE U IN FLU--Are U Ready?

5 tips to get ready for the 2010-2011 influenza season

Laboratories

- **Know how to report aggregate cases of influenza by type.**

Weekly reporting of aggregate total positive influenza results by culture, PCR and immunofluorescent antibody (DFA or IFA) is required in West Virginia. Do not include rapid test results.

The reporting week ends on Saturday at 11:59 PM. You can report your numbers by close of business Monday to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) by

Fax: 304-558-8736

E-mail: Charles.N.Vance@wv.gov and a copy to Julie.L.Freshwater@wv.gov

Phone: 304-558-5358

Laboratories reporting to the CDC U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like-Illness Surveillance Network do not need to submit a separate report to DIDE.

Non-reporting labs will be contacted by phone on Tuesday morning

- **Send five (5) representative samples of influenza A every week to the Office of Laboratory Services (304)-558-3530 for subtyping during the season.**

See: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/Micro%20Request%20Form.pdf>

Subtyping early season isolates helps us all know what strains of influenza are circulating in our state, and whether the isolates are vaccine-strain. These data are very important to influenza surveillance in the state. Subtyping throughout the season helps identify emergence of new strains.

- **Know your responsibility to report novel influenza and outbreaks immediately to your local health department.**

Novel influenza in animals or humans is a sentinel event that must be investigated immediately. Recognition of novel influenza could be the first sign of an influenza pandemic. Outbreaks of influenza are also reportable immediately to your local health department.

- **Know that your specimens are very important to the health and welfare of the state of West Virginia. Thank you for your participation in the sentinel surveillance program**
- **Data from participating labs is posted and updated weekly and can be found at:**

<http://www.wvidep.org/tabid/1960/Default.aspx>